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NEWS
Five Faculty Granted Tenure
Professors spanning across different departmental fields recently received this distinction. **page 8**

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With the release of regular decision acceptances, the College's admission rate falls to 11.8%. **page 9**

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20 students from Professor Isserman's Himalaya course traveled to Nepal over Spring Break. **page 10**

The Spectator

Thursday, March 31, 2022

Volume LXIII
Number XXI

Publishing the Truth, From Good Motives and For Justifiable Ends

Staffing shortages plague Health Center, limiting student access to on-campus care

by Stella Karron '23
INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING EDITOR

**Content Warning:* This article discusses mental health and physical health issues.*

Editor's Note: asterisks adjacent to names signify that a pseudonym has been used per the request of the interviewee, who asked for anonymity due to the sensitive nature of personal medical issues.

When RJ Steele '23 contracted a cough in Fall 2021, he decided to call the Health Center. RJ had bronchitis before, so he knew the signs and wanted to come in for an appointment. However, his concerns were met with limited assistance. "I contacted the Health Center more than once, and each time was met with almost no help," said Steele. "In the first call I told them what I thought it might be, and they recommended a humidifier and Mucinex." Steele's condition only got worse. "The cough became so bad it sometimes led to me vomiting and was forceful enough to cause a great deal of pain in my back and ribs that lasted for weeks." The only solution he received from the Health Center was to "try breathing exercises," said Steele. "Eventually, I returned to Canada and saw a doctor who was shocked to see a case of bronchitis that had progressed that far … as it usually gets dealt with faster." Steele's appointment at home lasted less than ten minutes, where he was given medication that cleared the bronchitis in a week.

"I saw a doctor who was shocked to see a case of bronchitis that had progressed that far … as it usually gets dealt with faster."
-RJ Steele '23

The Johnson Center for Health and Wellness is nearing its fifth anniversary, yet within the state-of-the-art facilities, Hamilton students still often lack access to on-campus healthcare. Despite the building changes, students find that there is still not enough medical staff to attend to the student body.

In 2016, when the Health Center was still located in its old building, Director of the Health Center Barbara Fluty said, "this semester [Spring 2016] has been difficult to meet student demand as I am the only full-time provider in the Health Center." Due to this lack of staffing, "some students had to be redirected to local urgent care facilities in order for them to be seen in a timely fashion," stated Fluty in 2016. Fluty shared these thoughts with Kirsty Warren '18 for her 2016 *Spectator* article titled "Students share personal Health Center experiences." In Warren's interviews, many students expressed that they were "frustrated with the lack of availability of healthcare on the Hill."

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHIANG O'BRIEN ARCHITECTS

The Health Center now flaunts a new look.

In Fall 2021, Fluty again found herself as the sole full-time provider in the Health Center, but this time during a pandemic.

Despite staffing issues, Fluty feels that the new facilities have helped: "In my opinion, this new space has opened opportunities, and it's really given us the opportunity to think bigger…We're trying to look for ways to expand services, and we're exploring ways to expand availability for appointments. All things that I think students would benefit from and appreciate. I'm just really grateful for people's grace while we get there."

In Spring 2022, Mary* called the Center after throwing up 13 times in one day. "I was worried about how I was going to stay hydrated since I couldn't even keep down water or Gatorade…I was also getting massive dehydration migraines. When I explained my situation and asked if I could come in, the woman was short with me on the phone and said the nurses determine who comes in so I'll have to talk to them."

Mary "got a call back probably three hours later," recounting, "the advice I got over and over again was 'make sure you're staying hydrated' even though I explicitly told them that I couldn't keep water down." She said that if her stomach bug had not gone away, "[she] would've had to go to urgent care or the ER because," Mary recalled, "they provided negative help and basically made me feel like what I was dealing with wasn't serious enough to merit in-person medical attention, even though it was one of the times I've been the sickest."

For students to get seen by the Health Center, they must book an appointment first. "We go by appointment; the reason we do that is because otherwise we get really bottlenecked," said Fluty. When scheduling an appointment, students are supposed to call the Health Center and explain why they want an appointment. "We ask students who are experiencing acute needs to speak to a nurse first so that they can get their story, understand what's going on and try to assess what can wait and what needs more immediate attention," noted Fluty.

Kate* told *The Spectator* that when she calls the Health Center, "they usually don't pick up the phone. The most frustrating part is that when you leave a voicemail

with your name and date of birth, they usually do not call you back…However, when they do, the cycle repeats because if you do not pick up the phone when they call, then you have to call back and no one picks up and you leave a message all over again."

Fluty explains that if a student is in the early stages of being sick, they try to help them over the phone instead of telling them to come in. "If someone has had a very short time of symptoms, we'll try to talk about some strategies to try [at home] first." Over the phone consultations are also done because common flu, strep and COVID-19 symptoms all mirror each other. "Sometimes it's hard getting them through the door because of some of the COVID-19 [regulations]," said Fluty.

The Health Center is not allowed to test for COVID-19 on site. Due to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations, COVID-19 testing can only be administered at one site, explained Fluty. "In order to be compliant with [those regulations], we have to test in a satellite area, so that would be at [Tolles Pavilion], and then once we know they are good, we can bring them in." Though over-the-phone treatment keeps appointments from piling up, it can

"The Health Center made me feel like what I was dealing with wasn't serious enough to merit in-person medical attention, even though it was one of the times I've been the sickest." -Mary*

limit the quality of care students receive.

Even in an emergency situation, students have found it difficult to schedule appointments. "I called them on a Thursday or Friday morning because I had a urinary tract infection and I was hoping they'd squeeze me in that day for more emergency circumstances" said Ashley*. "I explained how I'd been up all night with really bad pain and wanted an antibiotic prescription because they can get worse in the matter of days. They told me that they were all booked up and the earliest they could treat me was the next Wednesday since they only had one provider. They gave me no other advice except to go to urgent care, considering they probably knew that it had to be treated as soon as possible."

The Health Center is open on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. It is open on Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. It is not open on the weekends.

The Health Center will advise students to go to outside resources in order to "streamline their care" explained Fluty. "Sometimes we send people off because there's actually a reason to send them off…like stitching right now." To Fluty, sending students off campus is for their benefit, since "those things we do tend to send off just to try and expedite getting them seen and getting it solved more quickly."

"Hamilton is a 100% residential college that should provide full-time care. Instead, they provide care during the class times." -Kate*

However, some students have recently been unhappy with the care they receive off campus. In 2021, Emily Rivito '21 wrote a Longform Investigation article titled "The Absence of Trust: Students Allege Negative Experiences at St. Luke's and St. Elizabeth's" for *The Spectator*. She found that some Hamilton students actively avoid local hospitals because of their reputations. This article quoted a student expressing that she was "not willing to go to St. Elizabeth's or St. Luke's again…unless I'm in a life or death situation, I will never set foot in those places again."

Ashley said that being sent off campus "led me to have a really not fun experience at an urgent care with a male doctor I didn't feel comfortable treating me." She continued, explaining that "the urgent care also ended up prescribing me antibiotics that my infection was resistant to which they didn't realize until multiple days after…the Health Center not being able to give me 20 minutes of their time led me to getting improper care at my own expense."

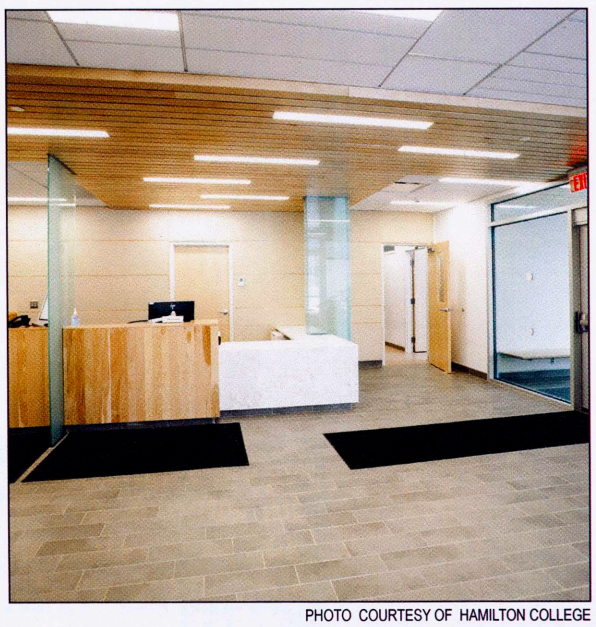

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE

The Health Center bosts an open interior.

"I think it's ridiculous that the Health Center isn't open 24/7. Hamilton is a 100% residential college that should provide full-time care. Instead, they provide care during the class times," said Kate. She noted that when attempting to receive care, "it's difficult to make an appointment with them because they are usually full." Right before Thanksgiving Break in Fall 2021, Kate tried to get an appointment at the Health Center. Instead of waiting for an open appointment, she decided to schedule one at the Slocum Dickson Medical Center, PLLC, an urgent care located in New Hartford, New York. She called them at 2:00 p.m. and had an appointment by 3:30 pm the same day. The Slocum Dickson doctor diagnosed her with bronchitis at that appointment. "I usually go off campus for help now because it's faster," said Kate.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE

The Rudd Health Center was replaced in 2018.

To supplement care outside of its hours, the Health Center partnered with Fonemed. Fonemed is a nurse triage line consisting of healthcare professionals who are not local, but have been given information by Hamilton on the local medical services. According to the Health Center's website, through Fonemed, "urgent calls will be answered immediately, but for most individuals, a message will be taken and a RN will call back, typically within 30 minutes." Fonemed advises students with at-home treatment and, when necessary, directs them toward the nearest emergency rooms and urgent cares.

The morning after a student calls Fonemed, Fluty and her team meet and go over the calls. "The triage nurse at the time will be reaching out to those students and making sure that they're doing okay. We see if they need to follow up, offer follow-up appointments, that type of thing." Fluty views Fonemed as a vital supplement to Hamilton's services, as

and figure out what the best route to take is."

For Elizabeth*, the lack of providers at the Health Center made her unable to receive any care whatsoever. "Before school started, I was in a hospitalization program for an eating disorder. In order for me to come back to school, my doctors gave me very specific guidelines outlining exactly what I needed to do to be successful at school," said Elizabeth. One of the guidelines was for Elizabeth to get her vitals checked weekly by the Health Center. "My parents reached out to them in the beginning of the summer, and they responded that they weren't sure what services they were offering [for the 2020-21 academic year] yet. When school started, we called again and got the same response."

In November 2021, Chiming Tse P '22, created a Change.org petition to make "the school become fully aware of how the majority of students and parents view the need to improve the health care services." On Dec. 10, Interim Dean of Students Nancy Thompson wrote a letter to parents and students regarding recent complaints about the lack of quality and care students receive from the Johnson Center for Health and Wellness. Without directly addressing the petition, the letter noted that Hamilton was "here to listen" regarding questions, concerns and ideas.

"The Health Center not being able to give me 20 minutes of their time led me to getting improper care at my own expense." -Ashley*

Tse became concerned about the lack of services provided by the Health Center after his son, Ethan Tse '22, complained about the Health Center. "It started with my son having his own negative experience…he had a pain in his neck and he went to the Health Center and, without giving any type of formal diagnosis, [the Health Center] sent him straight to the emergency room, where he waited for four hours before he saw anybody, and you know, that experience itself was terrible."

Afterwards, Mr. Tse went on the Hamilton Parent Facebook group, a private forum where parents of Hamilton students can post questions and concerns about the College. Tse turned to a thread on the page where several parents had shared their childrens' experiences at the Health Center. The thread consists of 33 comments from parents. When going through the thread, Tse says that he was looking to see if anyone had a positive experience with the Health Center. However, Tse has "yet to hear somebody say 'oh, you know, I went to the Health Center, they were so helpful.' There wasn't a single good experience." The parents' overwhelmingly negative opinion of the Health Center inspired him to create the petition. "I think there's some very realistic and doable solutions that wouldn't take a lot for the school to do," said Tse.

The Health Center moved to its new location at the Johnson Center for Health and Wellness in 2018, which replaced the former Rudd Health Center. Dr. Beth Johnson P'93 and Joel W. Johnson '65, P'93 funded this center. Duncan Freeman '22 interviewed the Johnsons right before the center's opening for a 2018 *Spectator* article titled "Near-complete Center for Health and Wellness dedicated over Family Weekend." When Freeman interviewed the two, they said they viewed healthcare as a "glaring area where we could improve" calling it "a very clear need on all college campuses" and viewing the new health center as a "great opportunity to step forward."

However, despite the new venue, these same sentiments of frustration and anger seen in 2016 persist. When talking to alumni, Tse said "the most disconcerting thing is that this is not a new problem, you've got kids that graduated four or five, six or seven years ago, and they were saying the same thing." To Tse, the Health Center is "obviously not a high priority" to the College. "You can't just be an aspirin dispensary and say 'that's it' for right now…you have to be able to do a little bit more…I think hours are a critical piece, why can't they be open six days a week for, say, eight hours? I mean it's Hamilton, they can't afford that?" remarked Tse.

As of Spring 2022, there are two practitioners and five nurses, with one nurse working full time at the testing center. There is a doctor who comes in for three hours on Thursday afternoons. However, Fluty agrees that the Health Center is still understaffed. "I've heard students' concerns about availability and I've really been trying to be proactive and work on that, which is why we've been trying so hard to get staff," said Fluty.

Fluty remarked that this lack of staffing is not just a problem facing Hamilton. "It's been very difficult to find people and it hasn't only been us. It's been just Upstate [New York] in general." Dean Thompson reiterated that statement in her letter, writing that "Hamilton, like many health facilities nation-wide, has faced a shortage of care providers."

Hamilton's location also makes it difficult to fill positions. Counseling Center Director, Staff Psychologist and Lecturer in Psychology David Walden, PhD mentioned that some doctors "wouldn't necessarily want to live in Clinton" given its rurality and remoteness versus more urban places like Syracuse and New York City.

Fluty also mentioned that the salary can also deter possible candidates. "I love college medicine, but it's not always the same pay rate as medicine outside of that." COVID-19 has only exacerbated this problem. "It's been very difficult to get healthcare workers, I think some are burnt out from COVID-19."

When reflecting on student's complaints, Fluty stated, "I want people to have good outcomes. I want them to have good encounters. I want them to feel supported. I feel terrible when people think that we're not trying. That really breaks my heart because I really want people to know that I care about students. I wouldn't have taken this job if I didn't. I find the students on this campus to be really exciting, amazing interesting people and I want to help them."

Recently, the Health Center has filled two positions: a nurse practitioner starting this summer and a physician assistant starting this fall. "I'm hoping that the next academic year will have more availability in place," said Fluty. "I'm looking to make that happen. I know that hours and things of that nature have been difficult. I just hope that people would understand that it's not personal, I'm one person, and so it's been difficult trying to manage that."

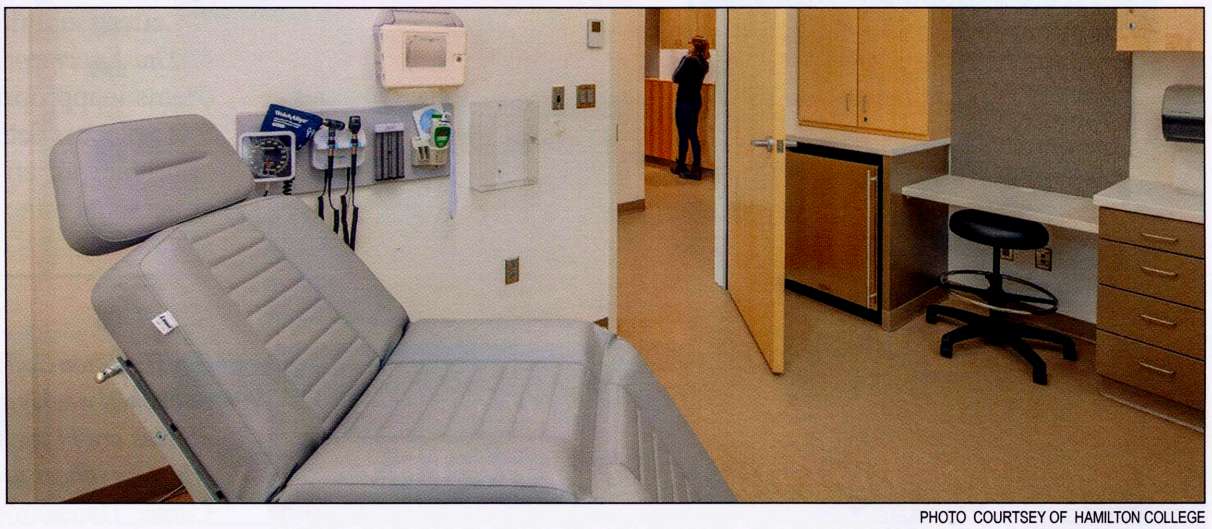

PHOTO COURTSEY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE

Students have struggled to earn a spot within an appointment room at the Health Center.

Dear *The Spectator* Editorial Board,

On Feb. 9, all graduating seniors received an email where we were asked to put the phonetic pronunciation of names for our diplomas. As someone with a Spanish name, Karina started asking around on what we were supposed to do. Most of the replies were of other seniors nervously laughing it off or telling her "to do what you think is best." The end result was to submit the form with "[Spanish Pronunciation]" in front of the phonetic pronunciation. However, we couldn't let it go and started discussing how to bring attention to this issue.

On Feb. 26, Anyi emailed Events & Scheduling about the possibility of having faculty members from different language departments read the names at Commencement to ensure names would be pronounced accurately. By this point, we had already spoken to a professor from the Hispanic Studies department to see if this was of interest, and they affirmed they would be willing to help out in pronouncing the names in Spanish.

The response we received from the school on March 1 was "I'm not sure if what you're suggesting is possible given the speed at which students need to cross the stage (I'm not sure we can switch name readers that quickly), but I will share your idea with the planning committee to discuss." After this response, we did not hear anything back. This response was insufficient and disappointing, so we decided to gain support on our own accord.

On March 5, we created a Google Form to see how many students, from all class years, were interested in having names pronounced in their native languages. The next day, we spread the word on our Instagram accounts to reach more students. Currently, 222 students have filled out the form, indicating that many believe that mispronouncing student names denies us of our dignity and the ability to celebrate an important moment we worked so hard for.

On a more logistical side, we also created a form for the faculty in order to gain insight into how many languages are spoken amongst staff. As of now, we have received 16 responses and 15 different languages. Likewise, we have reached out to the Audiovisual Services Team (who works for Commencement), and they have both offered support and technical advice. The point is, logistically, Hamilton College has the resources to make it possible.

Finally, on March 10— right before Spring Break— we created and shared an infographic with Events & Scheduling of the data we collected from the Google Forms. On March 24, we received a meeting request for this upcoming week with Events & Scheduling. This is a step in the right direction, and we are hopeful that their decision to speak to us values students' voices and considers the labor that we, as two first-generation students of color, had to put into having something as basic as our names pronounced correctly at our own graduation ceremony.

Anyi Rescalvo '22 & Karina Becerra '22

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The Spectator's Letter to the Editor section is designed to be a forum for the entire Hamilton community to discuss and debate campus, local, national, and global issues. Pieces published in the section express the opinion of the individual writers and are not necessarily the opinions of *The Spectator*, its editors or the Media Board.

Letters to the Editor are welcome from all students, alumni/ae, faculty, friends of the college, and Hamilton community members.

The Spectator has the following policies for submission:

1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. The editors reserve the right to cut off letters at 500 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. *The Spectator* reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
5. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

***The Spectator* is a publication of the Hamilton College Media Board. A volunteer staff of students handles all aspects of the weekly publication. The purpose of the newspaper is to provide the Hamilton Community with an honest, fair, timely and high-quality publication.**

Celebrating 175 years, we were first published as The Radiator *in 1847.*

About Us

The Hamilton College Spectator, *publication number USPS 612-840, is published weekly by the Hamilton College Student Media Board while classes are in session. For more information e-mail spec@hamilton.edu. Our offices are located on the second floor of the Sadove Student Center. The deadline for advertisements is Monday the week of publication. For further information, please e-mail specads@hamilton.edu.*

Letter to the Editor: CDC Community Levels measure more than just transmission

Deanna Durben's excellent March 3, 2022 article prompted us to provide context for the CDC's new Community Level measurements. The CDC's "Community Levels" take several factors into account [1]:

CDC looks at the combination of three metrics — new COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population in the past 7 days, the percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients, and total new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population in the past 7 days — to determine the COVID-19 community level.

Oneida Country is classified as "Community Level: Low" because we have ample available hospital beds and staff in the county. However, our Level of Community Transmission is (still) classified as "substantial" as of today, March 11, 2022. This means there is a high chance of exposure in gatherings and highly trafficked public spaces. For a person at high risk of experiencing severe complications of COVID, the risk of exposure may outweigh any comfort of knowing that hospital beds will be available should they be exposed. [2]

Data is a best attempt to measure phenomena in our world, but it can be subject to error and bias inherent to limitations in data collection. For example, COVID transmission metrics rely on a count of the number of cases in a county. At the same time as more testing is being done at home, the New York State public health website indicates that reporting positive at-home test results to the county is not required. If we rely solely on metrics like Community Level for campus-wide decision-making, we must remember that structural changes to data collection can result in a mismatch between the numbers and people's experiences in the real world.

Personal circumstances inherently impact perceptions of risk. An immunocompromised person will have a different perception of a 1/100 chance of exposure than someone who considers themselves likely to experience only mild cold-like symptoms. Moreover, COVID outcomes vary by community. Studies demonstrate inequalities in the impacts of COVID based on race, ethnicity, and income. [3][4][5]

Thus, we urge those looking at the CDC Community Level as well as the CDC aggregated statistics to have the following questions in mind as data-literate individuals:

- What is my personal risk tolerance, what is my community's risk tolerance, and does the CDC Community Level give me adequate information to make decisions for myself and my community?
- What precise risk to public health does the CDC Community Level measurement seek to quantify? What is actually being measured?
- What are the potential sources of bias/ error in the data?

As a community, we must look beyond the case-count data. As we make decisions, let's challenge ourselves to consider varying individual perceptions of risk, social determinants of differential risk, and the impact of our decisions on the state and nation.

Courtney Gibbons
Associate Professor of Mathematics

Heather Kropp, Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies

PS: Because we're professors, we included some references for those who wish to dig deeper.

References:

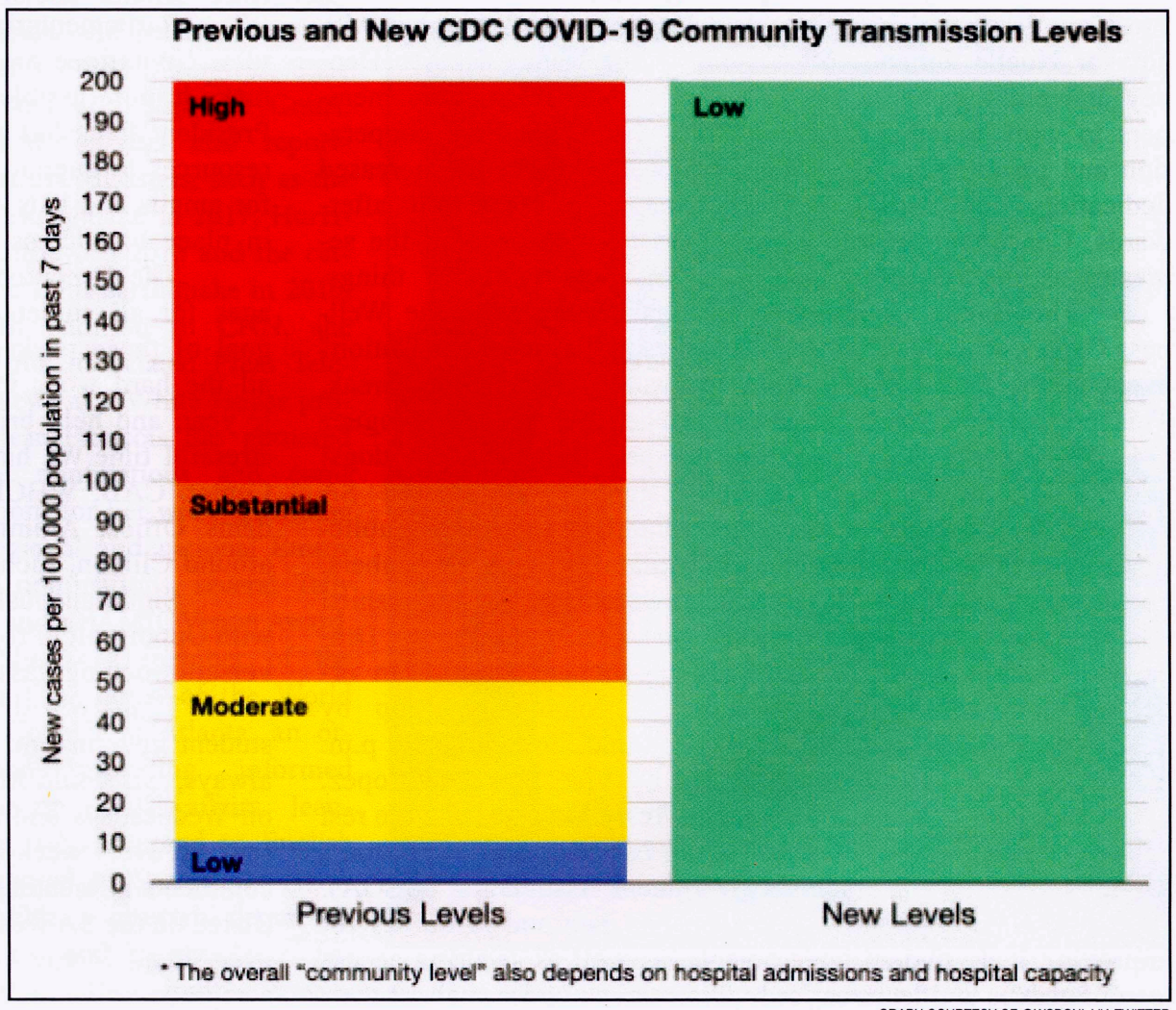
[1] https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html

[2] https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view?list_select_county=36065&null=36065

[3] Holden, Tobias M., et al. "Structural racism and COVID-19 response: higher risk of exposure drives disparate COVID-19 deaths among Black and Hispanic/Latinx residents of Illinois, USA." BMC public health 22.1 (2022): 1-13.

[4] Truong, Ngoc, and Andy Ohemeng Asare. "Assessing the effect of socio-economic features of low-income communities and COVID-19 related cases: An empirical study of New York City." Global Public Health 16.1 (2021): 1-16.

[5] Wu, Xiao, et al. "Exposure to air pollution and COVID-19 mortality in the United States: A nationwide cross-sectional study." (2020).



GRAPH COURTESY OF @WSBGNL VIA TWITTER

Professors Gibbons and Kropp: "Science Communication Twitter at its best!"

March 31, 2022

Spring 2022 Student Assembly Updates

by the Hamilton College Student Assembly (SA)

The Hamilton College Student Assembly (SA) has had an exciting first half of the spring semester! Under the leadership of the new President Emily Jiang '25 and Vice President Marvin Lopez '23, they have begun and completed initiatives ranging from bringing dogs to campus to restructuring student organization funding. Below we have listed some of the goals they have achieved so far, as well as some things that are still in the works!

As of now, we have a few new representatives joining us for the spring: Class Presidents Joe Maalouf '23 and Adina Mujica '24, and Class Representatives Tommy Keith '22, Matthew Sinning '23, Rafael Osella '23 and Evelyn Molina '23. Our new executive board consists of President Emily Jiang '25, Vice President Marvin Lopez '23, Parliamentarian Allison Sheehan '23, Treasurer Felix Tager '23, Publicity Director Max Ganem '25, Secretary Raymond Ni '24 and Org Relations Chair Alexandra Kropaneva '25.

Along with the Campus Activities Board (CAB) and Student Activities, SA representatives on the Student Activities Fee Committee (SAFC) have created a slew of documents pertaining to student organization funding and the Student Activities Fee. Principal contributors include Treasurer Tager, President Jiang, Vice President Lopez, Parliamentarian Sheehan and Class President Maalouf.

In these SAFC documents, we have laid the groundwork for the creation of a Traditions Fund that organizations will be able to apply to for funding for repeating tradition events. In conjunction with the SAFC initiatives, Student Assembly (led by Treasurer Tager and the Treasury department) has secured a trial run of annual rollovers for SA funds in preparation for an eventual transition to an agency fund. This change will allow student organizations to have greater freedom, control and efficiency in their spending and allocation of funds. President Jiang and Vice President Lopez worked together with advisor Noelle Juliano to hire consultant Nancy Hunter Denney and put together a one-day retreat for all Assembly members to work together on leadership, vision, bonding, cooperation and planning for the future, which has markedly increased dedication, contribution and knowledge in leadership afterwards. Consultant Denney is on retainer for the rest of the semester as the Assembly gets back into the swing of things.

The Health Committee, in collaboration with the Wellness Center, worked together to organize a "Paws for Relaxation" event in the Filius Events Barn the week before spring break. This project was spearheaded by Michelle Estrella-Dominguez '24. We hope you had fun getting to spend time with the dogs!

Publicity Director Ganem designed and ordered SA sweaters for this year so that representatives can more publicly display their commitment and availability as SA members. Please feel free to come up to anyone wearing an SA sweatshirt!

Student Assembly has set up weekly tables at Diner with merch, postcards and public comment stations in order to increase engagement with the community. Stop by Wednesdays 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. and Fridays 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.! This initiative was led by Vice President Lopez.

Working with Dean of Students Terry Martinez and the rest of the executive board, President Jiang has registered Hamilton's SA for the American Student Government Association (ASGA). ASGA helps representatives access more data and resources for improving their student governments, as well as securing access to conferences and lectures for representatives to learn about their roles and meet with peers in student governments across the country.

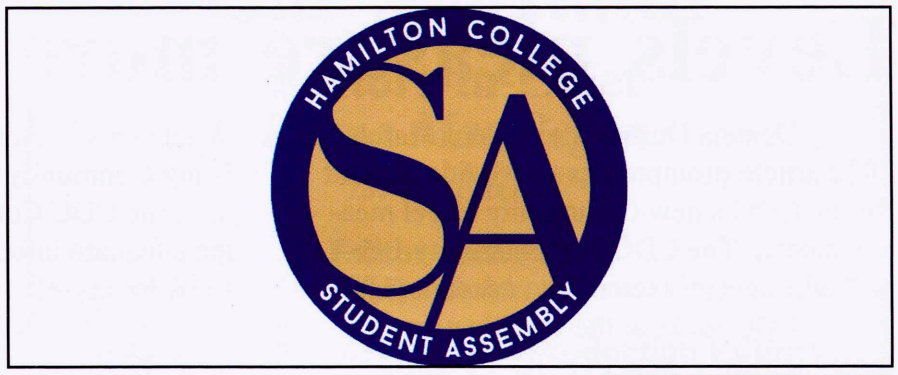


PHOTO COURTESY OF STUDENT ASSEMBLY

SA has nominated, deliberated on and/or confirmed about a dozen students to Honor Court, Judicial Board, college committees and trustee committees. These students, most of whom are not Assembly members, will be helping make decisions and give student representation on both student-centered and college-wide topics.

Some of the work currently in progress by President Jiang and President Mujica consists of the crafting a new land acknowledgment and programing to build a geniuine relationship with the Onieda Nation via the Shenandoah-Kirkland Initiative (SKI). In the meantime, the old land acknowledgment has been removed from meetings so as not to be disingenuous.

President Jiang is working with the new library archivist to install as many SA records (minutes, agendas, etc.) as possible into the college archives for safekeeping and future reference.

In conjunction, Vice President Lopez and Publicity Director Ganem are working to revamp the SA website and make it more clear, accessible and representative of our current Assembly.

Class Presiden Maalouf is working with Library and IT Services (LITS) to increase printer accessibility and availability on campus. Maalouf and the other Class of 2023 representatives are also planning a Class of 2023 barbecue and other class bonding events.

Parliamentarian Sheehan and the Constitutional Review Committee are working on revamping the Constitution to make it more legible, useful and pertinent for future Assemblies. President Jiang has begun an initiative to put together and create resources to support marginalized students, including templates for emails and lists of resources. There are also other initiatives in place to address discrimination and harassment on campus.

The Executive Board is putting together wellness packages for all students, aiming to send them out in April. The goal of those packages is to energize and reward students for all the hard work in the final push to the end of the academic year, and help bring a little bit of joy to what can be a very stressful time.We have secured contributions from the Wellness Center, CAB, WHCL, the President's Office, the Dean of Students Office, Alumni Relations and various small businesses around Clinton, including the Cremeria and Rainbow Cupboard.

Simultaneously, the Justice & Equity Committee has worked with Opportunity Programs Director Aaron Ray in facilitating conversation among class years to make changes to the summer program.

Thank you all for your support and your faith in us. As your student government, we are honored to be representing you. As always, we would love to hear from you. SA has tables at Diner on Wednesdays and Fridays, and a form for public comments is sent out every week in your emails. We welcome in-person public comments at meetings as well. Additionally, your representatives (listed on the SA website) are open to chatting about anything and everything! If you have any questions, please feel free to email a representative or the Student Assembly general email account (sa@hamilton.edu). We are excited to continue serving you!

March 31, 2022

Netflix Co-Founder Marc Randolph '81 set to deliver 2020 Commencement address

by the Hamilton College Communications and Marketing Office

Hamilton College will celebrate its Class of 2020 graduates with an in-person Commencement ceremony on Saturday, June 4, at 10:30 a.m. in the Margaret Bundy Scott Field House. A virtual ceremony had been held in 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. Marc Randolph '81, co-founder of the online streaming service Netflix, will deliver the Commencement address and receive an honorary degree.

In addition to Randolph, an honorary degree will be presented to Edvige Jean-François '90, an award-winning global journalist and producer, and guest editor of a 2021 special issue of Hamilton's alumni magazine focused on racial inequity and injustice. Jean-Francois will offer the Baccalaureate address on Friday, June 3 at 3:00 p.m. in the Margaret Bundy Scott Field House. More than 200 members of the Class of 2020 are expected to return for their Commencement ceremony.

Marc Randolph '81

Marc Randolph was the co-founder and first CEO of the online movie and television streaming service Netflix.

Although he is best-known for starting Netflix, Randolph has had a career as an entrepreneur that spans more than four decades. He has founded more than half a dozen other successful start-ups, been a mentor to scores of early stage entrepreneurs and an investor in numerous successful tech ventures.

Randolph is the author of the internationally best-selling memoir, *That Will Never Work – the birth of Netflix and the amazing life of an idea*, host of the top-*10 That Will Never Work* podcast, and a star of *Entrepreneur Magazine*'s "Elevator Pitch" web series.

Most recently, Randolph co-founded analytics software company Looker Data and currently serves as an advisor to multiple other startups, serving variously as a mentor, CEO coach and/or board member.

Edvige Jean-François '90

A media consultant and award-winning, multilingual journalist, Edvige Jean-François has spent her career covering major domestic and international events. She began her journalism career at ABC News and then became a senior producer for CNN International, where she produced documentaries, multi-platform news and features.

In 2021, she served as guest editor of a special edition of Hamilton's alumni magazine that focused on racial inequality and injustice.

Jean-François developed content and international sponsorships launching and partnering on several strands in CNN's Africa programming, including *African Voices* and *Marketplace Africa*. She produced or contributed to news reports that aired on *The Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer* and *CNN Heroes*, among other flagship brands, and covered developments at the U.S. Congress, State Department and Supreme Court.

Jean-François also reported on natural disasters, such as the Mexico earthquake in 2017, Hurricane Matthew in 2016 and the catastrophic Haiti earthquake in 2010.

In addition to CNN, she worked for Associated Press Television News as a White House producer. Jean-François has garnered multiple nominations and commendations for her work, including eight regional and national Emmy Awards nominations, several Telly Awards and a NAMIC Vision Award.

She is a member of the Steering Committee of the World Affairs Council of Atlanta, an organization providing informed dialogue on global affairs. Jean-François, who majored in English and minored in Spanish at Hamilton, holds a master's degree in journalism and postgraduate fellowship from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.

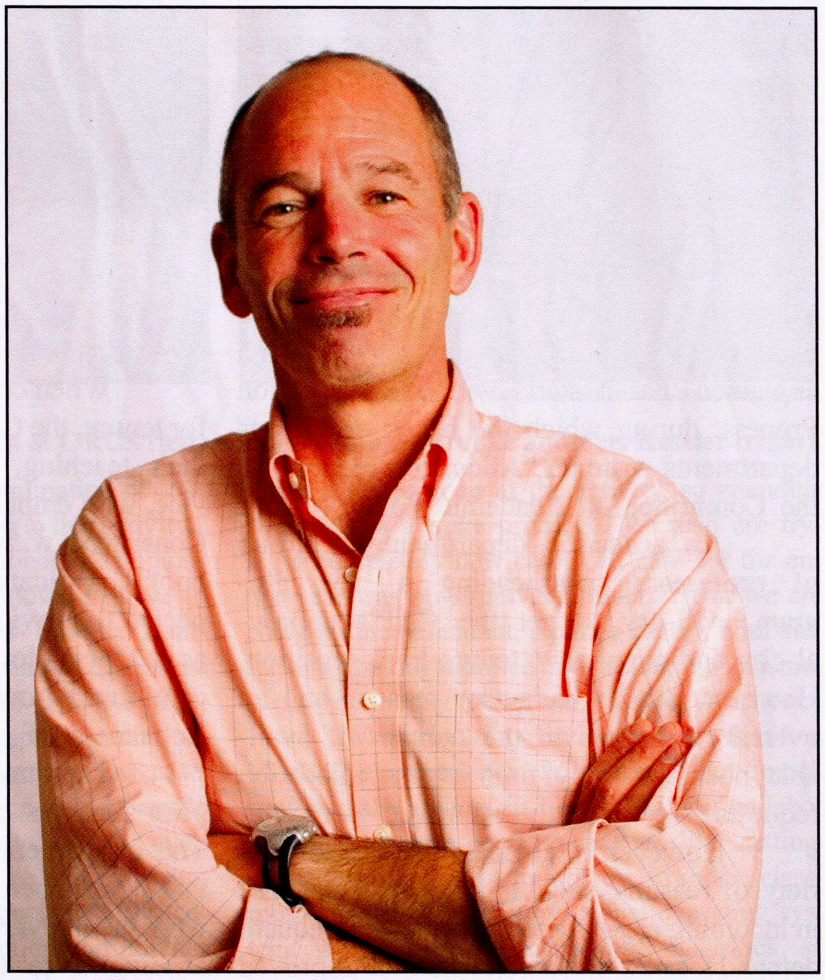


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HAMILTON COLLEGE COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING OFFICE

Marc Randolph '81, co-founder of Netflix, will deliver the Class of 2020 Commencement address and receive an honorary degree.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HAMILTON COLLEGE COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING OFFICE

An honorary degree will be presented to Edvige Jean-François '90 at Hamilton's Class of 2020 Commencement.

Five professors granted tenure

by Chinkhuslen Batbayar '25
STAFF WRITER

During their annual meeting on Saturday, March 5, the Board of Trustees granted tenure to five professors: Vikranth Bejjanki (Psychology and Neuroscience), Kira Jumet (Government), Celeste Day Moore (History), Claire Mouflard (French and Francophone studies) and Rachel White (Psychology).

The process of recieving tenure is a lengthy one, which on average lasts over eight years. Dean of Faculty Suzanne Keen explained that it starts with the Allocation Process, during which the heads of various departments write an "Allocation request" to the Committee on Academic Policy (CAP).

An academic department, or group of professors spearheading a new program, will try to get the CAP's approval for adding a new tenure-track position. However, due to budgetary reasons and an overall restriction on the number of available positions, only four to five allocation requests are typically approved per year.

However, Keen noted that due to a variety of reasons, such as an overall increase in incoming class numbers and the subsequent demand for new professors, the CAP approved 14 new tenure-track positions this year. It reviews all requests during the year before submitting their recommendations to the Dean of Faculty, who then reviews and recommends the changes to the College's President.

Departments that have been approved for a new tenure-track position start a year-long search for candidates who have completed a terminal degree in their field, such as a Ph.D. Once hired, the newly appointed tenure-track faculty start a roughly six-year process at Hamilton where they build a portfolio for their tenure appointment. This is, however, not a hard set rule. Depending on any number of circumstances, the tenure-track faculty may take or request an extension for their track. "For example, a tenure-track archaeology faculty member was approved for an extension during COVID as they were unable to go to their dig," Dean Suzanne Keen recalls. The Committee on Appointment (COA) oversees approvals when a tenure-track professor comes up for their tenure.

When considering a faculty member for tenure, the College looks at three factors: their teaching, scholarship and their service, with emphasis on the first two factors. Consistent with the 2019 Faculty Handbook, candidates for promotion are "expected to provide distinction to the Faculty as teachers, to have demonstrated sound, continuing growth as scholars, and to serve as leaders of the academic community."

The tenure candidate's portfolio goes through every step of the process. The department reviews the portfolio and votes on it before sending it to the COA, who then reviews and votes on it before sending it to the Dean, then the President. Lastly, the Board of Trustees speaks with students and makes the final verdict.

When there is a disagreement at any point during the "multi-layered judgment," the portfolio is halted and a meeting is held to reconcile the dispute. To ensure that no single person is controlling the process, the Board of Trustees makes all final decisions. However, Dean Suzanne Keen says that "by the time it reaches the Trustees, it should already be a very strong case."

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE

Tenure has been granted to Professors Bejjanki, Jumet, Moore, Mouflard and White.

COVID Update

by Deanna Durben '25
NEWS EDITOR

Out of 1893 PCR tests administered on Monday, March 28, nineteen people have tested positive for COVID-19. There are currently 46 active student cases, with 36 being quarantined in local hotels, and two active employee cases.

There have been 290 student cases this semester, of which 244 have been marked as resolved. In response to this heightened risk of community transmission, everyone on campus will be required to test on Thursday, March 31.

Although the new BA. 2 variant is estimated to be 30% more transmissible than Omicron, the College is choosing to continue in Blue Operating Status for now. Mask requirements remain unchanged, with professors in charge of classroom mask policies.

Per CDC data, the new variant now makes up more than 70% of all new cases in the Northeast region, including the State of New York. However, there have only been minor jumps in cases and no significant increase in hospitalizations thus far.

"While BA.2 is even more transmissible than the original Omicron variant, both tend to produce mild or asymptomatic illness in individuals who are vaccinated and boosted," said the COVID-19 Task Force.

In anticipation of increased COVID risk, with students returning from all over the country, the Testing Center handed out rapid testing kits to students in the week before Spring Break began. Students were asked to test before returning to campus to help combat the increased risk of transmission. Fifteen people who tested positive before returning are currently isolating at home.

The College's current guidelines let students to exit quarantine early on day six or day eight, if they test negative with a rapid test. This signifies a low level of coronavirus proteins present in the respiratory system, representing a lower possibility of infection. Currently, only 30% of students are testing out on day six. Based on their test results, around 20% must isolate for a full ten days.

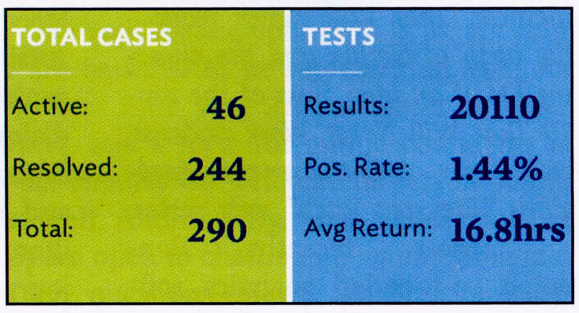


PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE

COVID-19 dashboard shows active cases.

Mock Trial heads to 2022 AMTA Nationals

by Catherine Vogt '24
STAFF WRITER

For the first time in seven years, Hamilton's Mock Trial team has qualified for the National Tournament. Mock Trial is a student organization that teaches its members the skills of law through participation in competitions held by the American Mock Trial Association (AMTA). Students on the Mock Trial team learn skills that are crucial to court trials, including persuasive speaking, rhetoric skills, acting, legal reading and debate skills.

Their main competitive season is in the Spring, but Mock Trial competes in various tournaments in the Fall where they practice and hone their skills. This past fall, the Mock Trial team competed in tournaments held by the University of Pennsylvania, University of Rochester, Georgia State University, Geneseo Joust and the Engelhardt Invitational hosted by Luther College.

On Saturday, March 19, and Sunday, March 20, the Mock Trial Team competed in the New York Opening Round Championship Series (ORCS) hosted by Iona College in New Rochelle, New York. At ORCS, Elise Wilson '22 won an Outstanding Witness award and John Rutecki '22 received an Outstanding Attorney award. Additionally, the team earned a spot for Nationals.

The team is led by co-captains Brooke Kessler '22 and Peri Kessler '22. When asked what going to Nationals meant to her, Brooke Kessler stated that "getting a bid to nationals is huge for our team. Hamilton Mock Trial has not been to nationals since 2015, and Peri and I as co-captains very much wanted to end that streak. Our team is entirely student-run, as opposed to many other programs that qualify for nationals. This means we do not have any lawyers or other kinds of coaches helping us. Our scripts and speeches are our own and we take a lot of pride in that. Getting a bid to Nationals truly feels like the culmination of four years of hard work and dedication to this activity."

PHOTOS COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE ORAL COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

Mock Trial celebrates their win at ORCS (left) with co-captains Brooke and Peri Kessler (right).

The 2022 AMTA National Championship will be hosted by Elizabethtown College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania April 8–10. The Hamilton Mock Trial team will be competing against 48 other schools. Kessler noted that the team has "less than three weeks to prepare for nationals and has to prepare an entirely new case. We have never prepared a case in this shortened timeline before, but we are excited for the challenge. To get us ready, we will be practicing every single day and working to put together a cohesive case on both the prosecution and defense sides that plays to our strengths as a program."

The team headed to Nationals includes Brooke Kessler, Peri Kessler, Wilson, Rutecki, Kiley Hartman '23 and Nicholas Garvey '23.

Wilson is completing her final semester at Hamilton and her Hamilton Mock Trial career. Wilson remarked, "I am really looking forward to competing against the best teams in the country. I can really say you learn about Mock Trial from teams that are good at the activity, so attending Nationals is a huge privilege. We also are trying a completely new case. Our case for the entire year was on aggravated arson. Now, we are charging the defendant, a police officer, with aiding and abetting a police drug skimming scheme! It is completely new and exciting territory."

When looking back on her Hamilton Mock Trial experience, Wilson said that "mock trial is really unique in that it lets you collaborate with people in an academic-like setting, something we do not frequently do in the classroom because of the individualistic grading system. We are all 'graded' together on Mock, so we collaborate intensely, and it's so fun. I also really love how much Mock Trial has improved my public speaking skills and my ability to think quickly and speak eloquently on my feet."

Upcoming tryouts will be held in the Fall semester. Only freshman and sophomores are eligible to join Mock Trial, as members build off of the skills they learn through their experiences with the team.

Hamilton acceptance rate drops to 11.8 percent

by Anoushka Aswin '25
NEWS EDITOR

Regular admission decisions were released for Hamilton College's Class of 2026 on Friday, March 25, at 8:00 p.m. EST. The number of applicants increased by six percent from last year, totaling a record-high of 9,899.

This year's applicants came from 137 countries and all 50 states. Out of these, 11.8% of them were admitted to the newest freshman class. This is the lowest acceptance rate on record for the college with 14.1% for the Class of 2025, 18.4% for the Class of 2024 and 16.3% for the Class of 2023.

There appears to be an overall upward trend in the number of applicants to Hamilton College, increasing from 8,339 students in 2019 and 9,380 in 2021. However, in 2020, during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of applicants decreased to 7,443.

Monica Inzer, Vice President for Enrollment Management, discussed the steps the college has taken to reach a wider audience. "One of the silver linings of COVID-19 is finding new ways to engage with students who can't visit campus." She referred to recent virtual programming such as Hamilton Hangouts, Tours from your Sofa, video interviews and Major Meetups, which all allow more students to interact with what Hamilton has to offer. These programs also make the college touring process more accessible to international students who may be unable to travel due to COVID-19 regulations.

The College has also been trying to encourage more applicants from marginalized and low-income communities. Inzer shares that the admissions committee has "been intentional about removing barriers in our application process (such as application fees for first-generation college students and allowing standardized test scores to be self-reported or optional altogether) so more students can be considered for admission to the College."

While the College is now focusing on recruiting the currently accepted students to the Class of 2026, the enrollment team is looking to reach more students in future years, hopefully without the barriers of the pandemic. Their team is looking at different outreach strategies which include possible high school visits, a new website, and more in-person visits for upcoming years.

Upcoming developments from companies involved with college admissions will also force many colleges to revise the admissions process. One of these changes will be the College Board's new SAT, a shorter online test that launches in 2023. Additionally, the Scoir College Network is a high school student database that will be releasing a new application similar to the Common Application. The College will therefore have to re-evaluate certain aspects of the admission process to accomodate these changes, and as Inzer exclaims, "we've got plenty to keep us busy as we plan for recruiting the future of Hamilton!"

Students reach new heights in Nepal

by Theodore Slosberg '24
FEATURES CONTRIBUTOR

Over Spring Break, 20 Hamilton students trekked to the base camp of Annapurna, nestled in the Himalayan mountains of Nepal. The trip is an optional component of Publius Virgilius Rogers Professor of American History Maurice Isserman's History of Himalayan Mountaineering. For the first time, every student in the class chose to take the trip. The trip gave students the opportunity to learn about the development of the tools they would use themselves on the real mountains. The trip has been running since 2017, though it was put on hold during the pandemic. Even this semester, COVID-19-related concerns threatened to cancel the trip last minute, but these were resolved just two days before departure.

On Saturday, March 15, students traveled from New York to Kathmandu. Students were immediately greeted by four Himalayan Icefall Trekking Company guides, Chandra, Ajit, Narendra, and Dawa, who would lead them for the rest of the trip. The next morning, they flew to Pokhara and after a two-hour Jeep ride, they began their trek from Kimche. Each day, the trekkers would walk for about six or seven hours, often climbing and descending foothill mountains by stairs, towards a new village. Their first stop was Ghandruk, followed by Dovan and Chhomrong. At the Excellent View Top Lodge in Chhomrong, the trekkers were greeted with a stunning view of both the Annapurna South and Fishtail peaks.

PHOTO BY KEELEY DURAN '22

Trekkers cross an ice field on their way to base camp.

Tommy Keith '22, a participant of the trip, described the daily workload: "We hiked about 8-12 miles each day, but none of the signs were measured in distance. Everything was measured either in time or in elevation change." "It was hell," Joseph Han '22 remarked, "but the views made every step worth it." Typically, days would begin at 6:00 a.m. and the group would start hiking, stopping every two hours for tea, Snickers bars or lunch. Meals were usually Dal Bhat, a lentil soup and rice, served with potatoes and bread. Afterwards, the group would arrive at a new village, settle in, and play bananagrams, journal, and relax before bed.

The group would trek on this schedule, climbing bit by bit, until they reached the Annapurna Base Camp. "It was spectacular to see the mountain we've been looking at in our textbook towering above us," Catherine McFarland '22 said. "We were able to appreciate not only the beauty of the mountains, but all the stories behind them as well." Professor Isserman also appreciated how his course was applied in the real world: "The great thing about combining the trek with the course is that, as students tell me every year we are able to go, suddenly all those narratives we read, and photos and films we look at, become real, not just abstractions. As in, 'oh my goodness, Annapurna really is big!' And, maybe less welcome, but still enlightening, [as in] 'so this is what altitude sickness feels like!' Experiential education is one of Hamilton's strengths, and this is as experiential as it gets."

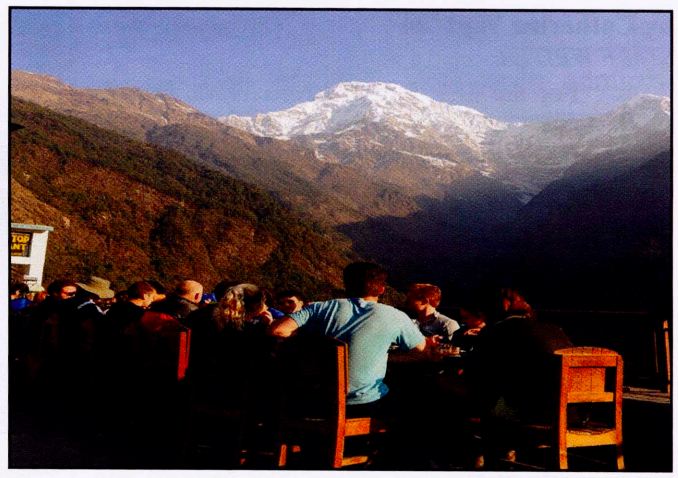


PHOTO BY KEELEY DURAN '22

Breakfast at Chhromrong overlooking Fishtail.

The final elevation the group reached was 4,130 meters above sea level. From the base camp, the group would begin their descent, stopping in new towns along the way. When they returned to Pokhara, they spent a night exploring the city, then two in the capital city, Kathmandu. Finally, they boarded the plane, and began their 25 hour journey home.

At the end of our conversation, Keith said of his journey: "It didn't change my life, but it reminded me of what's important. I felt like I grew a lot as a person, and about what I'm capable of."

PHOTO BY KEELEY DURAN '22

The trekkers celebrate their arrival at their summit: Annapurna Base Camp.

PHOTO BY KEELEY DURAN '22

March 31, 2022

A concerned message to whomever picks the desserts served at Commons

by Tristan Sollecito '24
STAFF WRITER

I am not here to hate on anything, but in my attempt to conjure a strong opinion to serve as the topic for this article, I realized that any subject matter associated with food is abundantly fruitful for critical conversation. This is evident from my Fritos crusade a few weeks back, one that unfortunately failed to move the needle in any significant way. Trust me, I knew that the Frito-loving community was hurtling towards extinction, but I was expecting at least a few closet corn chip fanatics to join me on my expedition. Hopefully, this opinion will connect with more of you. I would not even necessarily categorize this as an opinion, but more of a theory. It almost feels to me like whoever calls the shots at the Soper Commons Dining Hall at Hamilton College is using the dessert choices to conduct some sort of anthropological experiment. This is not even a complaint, but rather genuine curiosity as to how in the world the Commons dessert schedule is created.

Being in charge of dessert for close to 2,000 college students is far from an insignificant task. They say breakfast is the most important meal of the day, but let me ask you, what has a greater impact on your life, potatoes and eggs, or a triple chocolate cheesecake with caramel sauce and brownie bits? My point is that dessert matters, and I would absolutely not believe you if you told me that the first thing that catches your attention when you walk through those doors is anything but those two white trays to the right of the juice machine. That is certainly the first thing I check when I arrive for dinner, and I apologize if I offend the six people on campus who enjoy spice cake with vanilla frosting, but it is rarely, if ever, the option I am hoping to see. Diversity is very important—I appreciate the effort to mix it up and keep us on our toes—but sometimes I have a difficult time envisioning those conversations: "I'm thinking of Boston cream for tonight." "Over the lemonade cake?" "Yeah, never mind, you're right." I'm simply perplexed as to how the dessert plan comes about. Take the milk machine, for example: ever hear anyone complaining about the option of chocolate milk every day, and never any strawberry soy milk? I could drink chocolate milk at every meal. You know it is going to be a good day when the chocolate milk is flowing at Commons.

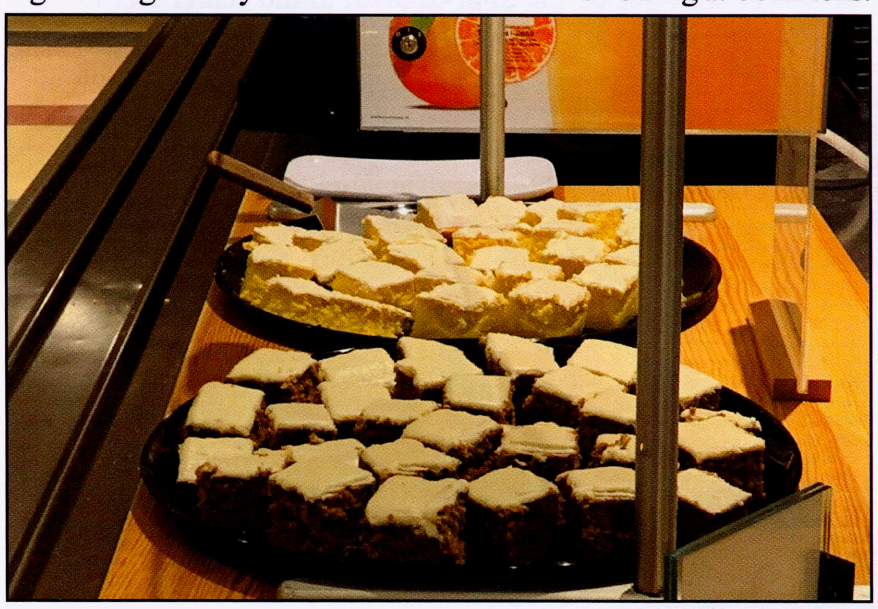


PHOTO BY MATTHEW COLLINS '24

A selection of desserts are available at Soper Commons Dining Hall; these particular platters contain lemon cake (top) and carrot cake.

PHOTO BY BOB HANDELMAN

Soper Commons, one of the larger dining halls at Hamilton College, features a dazzingly diverse assortment of desserts.

When you pull that lever, unsure of what you will be able to muster, and a torrential downpour of brown liquid goes streaming into your cup, it really is a beautiful sight. So again, I appreciate the effort for a change of pace. But it would not kill anybody if they had more brownie cheesecake. Is spice cake way easier to make than the other options? Maybe it is. I am no baking expert. But unless they grow it on trees in the arboretum, someone is vastly underestimating the allure of ginger and vanilla icing. I suppose my overall opinion is this: the dessert choices made at Commons are bizarre, to say the least. I have to assume that at least some of you are often underwhelmed by the post-dinner sweets available. I would also like to reiterate that disappointment is an afterthought compared to the sheer curiosity I have. I would love to sit down with the minds that make the dessert decisions at Commons and try to understand how they operate. I cannot even begin to imagine what I would find.

PHOTO BY MATTHEW COLLINS '24

The milk machine at Commons serves to offer dairy lovers their fix.

All eyes on the gubernatorial race

by Pat Cleary '24
OPINION CONTRIBUTOR

In about seven months, New Yorkers from Buffalo to Riverhead will head to the polls to select the next governor of the Empire State. If you are a New York Democrat, you are used to winning. Republicans have not won a statewide race since Governor George Pataki's reelection in 2002. If anything, the real race takes place in June during the Democratic primary. With the state facing rising crime, inflation, an unpopular White House and the specter of the ousted Andrew Cuomo, Democrats are in for an uphill battle. Meanwhile, Republicans have a potential playbook for victory using the same educational culture war that clinched the Governor's race in Virginia and nearly that of neighboring New Jersey. With all this at play, these are the candidates for the New York governorship.

The incumbent governor Kathy Hochul is seeking election. The Buffalo native arose to the post in August of last year after a sexual harassment scandal forced Cuomo to resign. Her term has focused on seeking to steer the state's economy through a pandemic recovery, while also building a case for her own re-election. She sits in an awkward and unprecedented position: a governor for whom nobody has ever casted a vote. Carrying the baggage of being attached to Cuomo does not help her either. With these obstacles, while ostensibly being the frontrunner, she faces primary challenges from both the right and left of her party.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WHAM

New York Governor Kathy Hochul is facing challengers as the incumbent in the upcoming New York Govenor's race.

From Hochul's left is New York City public advocate Jumaane Williams. Williams is a former activist whose work has focused on tenant and immigrant rights. A self-described democratic socialist, Williams positions himself as the progressive's leading candidate in the race for governor. He has received the endorsement of the left-leaning Working Families Party. His platform includes expanded public housing, a progressive tax structure, universal healthcare, continuation of New York's controversial bail reform law and protection of the environment. In short, he is roughly the American progressive's dream candidate for the governorship.

Part of the complexity in covering a race like this is that New York has three component regions—upstate New York, NYC and Long Island—and each of them have competing interests. Williams is clearly courting progressives in NYC and the state's other urban parts, but his proposals to increase property taxes and his stances against police are unpopular in the suburban parts of Long Island and upstate New York.

From the right of Hochul is Nassau County Congressman Tom Suozzi. Suozzi refers to himself as a "common sense Democrat" who is opposed to the leftward flank of his party. He opposes New York's bail reform and has used it to criticize Governor Hochul. His other policies include greater gun control, cutting property taxes and a "tough on crime" policing strategy. He also criticized a recent proposal by Governor Hochul to expand accessory dwelling units (detached housing units built in suburban backyards) that he said would destroy single family housing. Like Williams, he seems to have focused on a particular region of the state, that being the wealthy suburbs of Westchester and Long Island. However, it is not clear if his policies will find support in population-dense NYC.

Those are the three main Democratic candidates; now, onto the Republicans. Candidates include Andrew Giuliani, the son of former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, former Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino and Suffolk County Congressman Lee Zeldin. The clear favorite is Zeldin, who has already been endorsed by the New York GOP and New York Conservative Party. Zeldin is trying to create the same kind of shock upset that led to Glenn Youngkin's victory in Virginia. That is why he too is using the educational culture war to swing voters against mask mandates in schools and diversity initiatives. He is also hoping to use the backlash from the "defund the police" movement to secure the support of powerful police unions. Zeldin is also one of two Jewish Republicans in the House and has used his tenure to support Israel, which is politically beneficial in the most Jewish state per capita in the nation.

There is one elephant in the room regarding Zeldin's chances, and that is former President Donald Trump. Zeldin was one of Trump's strongest advocates during both his impeachments, and he likely needs Trump's endorsement if he wants to win. However, if he embraces Trump too much, he risks alienating voters in a state that overwhelmingly disapproved of his presidency. This balancing act will ultimately decide Zeldin's fate.

This race will come down to whether the eventual Democratic nominee can unite support across regions and ideologies. There are significantly fewer Republicans in the state with far fewer resources. Those are two major drawbacks, but what they have is unity. Moderates have already expressed discomfort with the prospect of a Williams victory; conversely, in the event that Hochul or Suozzi secures the nomination, the Working Families Party could reject the Democratic candidate (as they nearly did in 2018). Disunity is really the only Republican path to victory, as Zeldin has rejected the kind of pivot to the center that made Pataki a three-term governor. Also, Zeldin's longtime status as a Trump defender, while helpful in a primary, does not help him in a general where he needs to swing voters. If he, as Youngkin did in Virginia, threads this needle, he may be New York's next governor. However events play out, all eyes will surely be on Albany.

PHOTO COURTESY OF USNEWS

Suffolk County Congressman Lee Zeldin is the current favorite for the Republican nomination for New York Governor.

March 31, 2022

X (2022): A Texas farmhouse massacre

by Jason Le '23
STAFF WRITER

**Content Warning:* This article discusses violence and murder.*

Any horror and slasher movie enthusiast would likely be familiar with Hitchcock's *Psycho*, Carpenter's *Halloween* or Hooper's *Texas Chainsaw Massacre,* and the tropes that made them classics of their respective genres. Contemporary moviegoers might also recognize the studio A24 and their lineup of films these past few years, particularly their more popular horror films *Hereditary* (2018) and *Midsommar* (2019). From the studio that brought *Hereditary* to the big screen, *X* (2022) presents an erotic slasher film filled with 70s slasher movie tropes and modern-day suspenseful twists.

Director Ti West ushers the audience into 1979, the year of disco and home movies, just outside of Houston, Texas. The movie follows a cast of characters: Maxine, the junkie and aspiring star; Wayne, the cowboy and seductive movie executive producer; Bobby-Lynne, the pretty and snarky blonde; Jackson Hole, the handsome ex-marine porn star; Lorraine, the sweet and pure sound technician; and RJ, the avant-garde filmmaker boyfriend of Lorraine. With the goal of shooting an adult film that might break them into the mainstage industry, the group decides to spend a night at a reclusive farm outside of Houston to shoot "The Farmer's Daughter." As one of the characters asserts, this new direction of pornography is "avant-garde, art!" The owners of the farm, an elderly couple, do not take the graphic material that these young filmmakers set out to make too kindly. When night falls, the viewers can expect the true horror show to begin.

In the 70s, despite how slashers like Carpenter's *Halloween* grew more widely accepted, the thrill of making and enjoying an adult film still had to be secretive. However, West does not hold back on the gruesome kills nor does he hold back the sexuality. As a result, *X* feels reminiscent of movies iconic of the 70s, avant-garde pornography and horror.

Without giving away too much of the plot, *X* is perfectly staged with various props that bring the 1970s slasher ambiance to life. In addition to the wheat bread and old cigarette brands in a gas station where the characters stop, all of them fulfill some slasher archetype, including splitting up despite how the sinister hunters chasing them can easily pick up pitchforks, shotguns and axes in this environment. The casting choice is excellent, as every character is likable and enjoyable to watch, especially Mia Goth, whose performance as Maxine (and someone else) is impeccable. Living up to the legacy of the golden age slasher films, the kills in *X* are definitely gruesome and predictable. However, they did not feel cheap at all, and West's brilliant use of shots will have viewers on the edge of their seats.

PHOTO COURTESY OF POLYGON.COM

The doomed film crew includes Lorraine (Jenna Ortega), who worked as a boom-mic operator before the massacre began.

West relies on new and unique jump cuts that still have that A24 charm but with a nostalgic spin. These various cuts and transitions play a role in emphasizing *X*'s theme of doubles and reflections. In one scene, the old woman drinks some lemonade, which West wipes to transition to the next scene, something the movie makers would also perform elsewhere. If the suspense is not enough, West's use of familiar slasher edits still makes the movie a fun watch.

Arts & Entertainment Upcoming Events

by Emma Bowman '24
A&E EDITOR

Event information courtesy of the Hamilton College Website.
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Wellin Museum Open Studio
Thursday, March 31, Wellin Museum Exhibition Gallery North, 4:00 PM

Join us for this drop-in Hamilton College student art making event. This week's topic is figure drawing. Beginners, experts and all in between, come to the Wellin to draw some clothed models. Instruction will be provided by student docents, and the museum will provide all materials. Participants are more than welcome to bring their own sketchbooks or projects, too!

Movie Night in Bundy
Thursday, March 31, Bundy Cafe & Lounge, 7:00 PM

First week back but still in a chill-n-vibey mood from break? Let's lay back and watch a movie :)

Doc Woods Jazz Concert
Friday, April 1, Wellin Hall Schambach Center, 7:30 PM

Doc Woods presents a new suite of jazz tunes.

TAK Ensemble ft. Weston Olenki
Saturday, April 2, Wellin Hall Schambach Center, 7:30 PM

Part of the "Music and Science: From Pythagoras to the Synthesizer" lecture series sponsored by the Humanities Center and the Music Department, TAK Ensemble is regarded as one of the most prominent ensembles in the United States practicing truly experimental music. Dedicated to the commissioning of new works and direct collaboration with composers and other artists, TAK promotes ambitious programming at the highest level, fostering engagement within and outside of the music community. Weston Olencki is a musician, composer and sound artist currently making work centered around questions of instrumental music and its contexts/constructs, various mediated practices of listening and improvisation and the technological, material and cultural histories of rural space/time.

Masterworks Chorale
Tuesday, April 5, Wellin Hall Schambach Center, 7:30 PM

G. Roberts Kolb returns to conduct his final concert with the Masterworks Chorale and Symphoria, Johannes Brahms's Ein deutsches Requiem. Free admission. Masks and vaccination required for entry.

Jazz Combo
Wednesday, April 6, McEwen Cafe FoJo South, 9:00 PM

Doc Woods directs the Jazz Combo in a free concert.

CAB Comedy Show
Thursday, April 7, Filius Events Barn Lobby, 8:00 PM

Join CAB for the last comedy show of the semester! The comedian will be announced in April. Doors at 7:30pm.

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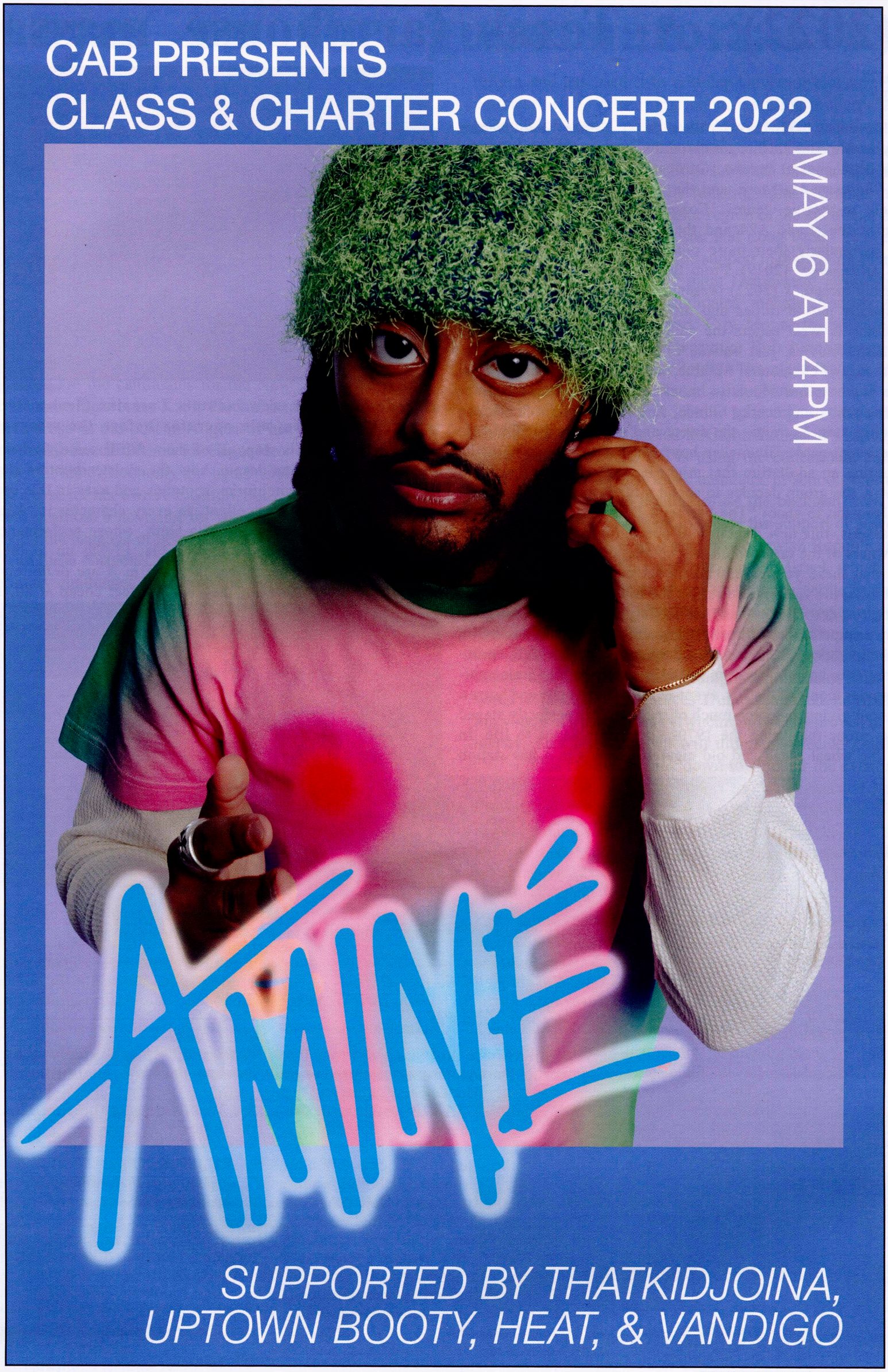
Have an event you want featured in this column?
Email us at specarts@hamilton.edu!



FLYER COURTESY OF CAMPUS ACTIVITIES BOARD

Labor, Immigration, and Reform in New York City's History

Spring 2023 - Intern in New York City

Info sessions:
Monday, April 11 @ Noon - KJ The Red Pit
Tuesday, April 12 @ 4pm - KJ The Red pit

Apply Here

Thanks to Professor Isserman and the spring 2014 NYC Hamilton program, I secured my first job out of college, made lifelong friends, and (perhaps most surprisingly) fell in love with living in New York City. It was an indescribable, life changing experience for me. – Sarah Scalet '15

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FLYER COURTESY OF THE HAMILTON IN NEW YORK CITY PROGRAM

Rowing and Softball travel for Spring Break

by Samantha Brown '22, *SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR*

The rowing team traveled to Clemson, South Carolina for a two-week spring training trip. We took a bus down, leaving on Saturday, March 12 in the middle of a snowstorm. This storm delayed our trip so that the entire bus ride took over 20 hours. We finally arrived around 5:00 a.m. Once we arrived, we rigged our boats and went out for a short technical practice in the afternoon. We had roughly two practices a day for two weeks. The morning practice started at 8:00 a.m. and the afternoon practice started between 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Our first few practices focused on technical work so rowers and coxswains could adjust to water practices after several months on land. After the first few days, the training regime picked up, and we began to do harder sprint pieces mixed with technical days. For example, we did broken 2Ks, where we race 1000 m, paddle for 500 m and race the last 500 m. Both the men's and women's teams scrimmaged against Marist in the first week doing 2 broken 2Ks. We also did 400 m sprints several times during the two weeks. Through examining these practices, our coaches began to make race lineups which were generally set for the second week of practice. A few of our practice days were canceled due to poor weather conditions, but we were still able to make the most of our 14-day training trip. I think Clemson was a nice training location and has several different water ways for technical practices and two buoyed 2000 m racecourses. We returned to campus on Saturday morning arriving around 2:00 a.m., as we thankfully did not encounter another snow storm.

by Samantha Smith '23, *SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR*

The softball team had a great spring break trip, both on and off the field. We went 10-2, including wins over Colby and Tufts, who are ranked #10 in the nation. We also got to spend a lot of time hanging out by the pool, seeing family and enjoying the warm weather. Some Hamilton softball alumni also came to watch a few of the games, and it was super fun to catch up with them. Another highlight was getting Twistee Treat ice cream after securing two wins, including an extra-innings walk off.

Athlete Spotlight: Seamus Fagan '23

by Sam Dils '22
SPORTS EDITOR

The Hamilton men's lacrosse team earned two impressive victories this past week, beating SUNY Cortland 12-8 on March 23 and Colby 7-2 on March 26. A key piece behind these road wins was starting goalie and junior captain Seamus Fagan '22. Fagan made 14 and a ridiculous 24 saves against Cortland and Colby, respectively, holding down a potent Colby offense to a measly two goals, behind an absurd .923 save percentage. Fagan leads the entire NESCAC with 16.57 saves per game on the season and ranks second with his .678 season-long save percentage for the 4-3 squad. *The Spectator* sat down with Fagan to discuss the team's recent success and some upcoming NESCAC matchups.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SEAMUS FAGAN '23

Fagan carries the ball upfield for a defensive clear.

Looking back on the team's wins over Cortland and Colby, what would you say were the biggest reasons for the team's success?

Definitely our approach. Coming off a pretty brutal and humbling loss at Conn, we knew we needed to practice better and play a full 60 minutes. Things were not perfect against Cortland or Colby, but we stuck together, played our game and finished both games.

Only conceding two goals against Colby is an impressive feat for both you and your defense. What did it feel like to totally lock down an offense like that?

It felt good, but I don't think we're satisfied by any means. There are definitely still some things we need to improve on, especially in the clearing game, but I think we are definitely getting better and building more chemistry as a unit.

You're currently leading the NESCAC in saves and first among starting goalies in save percentage for the season. Do you focus much on those statistics, and do you have any personal goals for the season?

I would be lying if I said I wasn't aware of those stats, but I try not to pay them too much attention. Ultimately, my only goal is to win a NESCAC championship and compete for a national championship with my teammates. That's all that really matters to me.

Tell us a little bit about your path to becoming the starting goalie and a captain for this team through some of the challenges of the past couple of years.

It was definitely not the most traditional path. After the pandemic hit, I took a gap year during the 2020-21 academic year. During that time, I worked an internship for an energy company in the Boston area before working on a farm in California. The time off from school and lacrosse provided a new perspective for me and affirmed my commitment to Hamilton lacrosse.

What are your hopes for playing Wesleyan this weekend, and how can the team rise to the occasion for a historically tough matchup?

It's really nice that we don't have a midweek game and will be able to string together four straight practices before Wesleyan on Saturday. We need to capitalize on that and practice well. If we prepare well, the result will take care of itself.

Lightning Round

Best team tradition?
Listening to the song "Rick and Morty" after wins.
Go-to gameday meal?
Fruit Snacks, Clif Bars and Body Armor.
Any personal superstitions before games?
Yoga and meditation.
Song/artist on your personal pregame playlist?
Celine Dion.
Teammate with a secret talent?
#34 Jake Mair - Top 100 Fortnite Controller Player in the world.
Teammate who will score the winning goal against Wesleyan?
#5 Charlie Ratner.